


Bikeways master plan - Lotus Notes

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Welcome Betsy Thompson - Inbox RE: Trail maintenance Bikeways master plan

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09/03/2003 11:57 PM
Please respond to alt

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cc:
Subject: Bikeways master plan

At the northern end of Lewis Avenue, it looks like it would be **very attractive to hang a bike lane on the railroad bridge crossing First Street, making a connection from Lewis Avenue to Stonestreet Avenue.** I have seen other places where a bicycle bridge has been piggy-backed on to an existing railroad bridge, notably the Potomac River crossing at Harpers Ferry. I assume that the property on either side of the bridge is privately held, but it looks technically feasible to acquire a right-of-way and do this at reasonable cost.

This bridge, if constructed, would improve bicycle access to the Rockville Metro/MARC Station. For example, it would become possible for MARC commuters who work in the Twinbrook/Parklawn area, or even as far south as White Flint, to leave a bike at the Rockville Metro station and ride to work without having to cross through the congested Route 28/Viers Mill traffic.

It would also greatly improve connectivity between the Twinbrook/Parklawn area and points north, including Kings Farm, College Gardens, Montgomery College, and Town Center. Stonestreet Avenue is another great bike route, for the same reasons (wide road, moderate traffic, moderate grade). With the planned redevelopment of that area, it makes a lot of sense to fill in the missing link in this key north-south route.

A route linking Twinbrook Metro Station with Nebel Street would be icing on the cake. This would be a lot more difficult to accomplish, however. I thought there was a plan to develop the tract of land along the west side of the railroad tracks behind the Montrose Crossing Shopping Center. I had read that a Home Depot was planned on this site. If so, there might be an opportunity to accommodate a bike path or on-road bikeway through there and connect it to the planned development at the Twinbrook Metro Station. This would extend the Stonestreet/Lewis Bikeway all the way south to White Flint. That would be awesome! Better yet, with all of this planned development, maybe the developers can be induced to underwrite some of the cost and integrate the bikeway into their site plans (and marketing).

That's my two cents' worth. I greatly appreciate your efforts to make Rockville a more bicycle-friendly place to live and work.

--AI Taylor

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